

9.03 lakh women was taken up in 9 low female literacy districts of the State which include 4 districts having more than 50% tribal population. Further, in order to raise the literacy levels in the state, the State Government has formulated Project for Residual literacy in 10 low literacy districts of Balangir, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Malkangiri, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Nabrangpur, Nuapada and Rayagada, where there is substantial tribal population, to cover 11.16 lakh persons.

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the State Government has initiated several steps to improve tribal literacy in Tribal Sub Plan areas as also other areas of the State with tribal population through multiple strategies by ensuring universal access and enrolment, retention and quality improvement, multilingual education, preparation of bilingual tribal primer, teacher training in tribal areas and cluster approach in tribal education. Action has been initiated to open 1000 girls hostel in existing Ashram schools run by SC/ST Development Department in which tribal girls will be enrolled. To reduce the drop out and to improve the retention of tribal children in some thickly tribal population blocks with low tribal literacy, a comprehensive community based child centre programme has been launched in Orissa in 141 tribal populated blocks. 114 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (residential schools) have been sanctioned to facilitate greater participation of girls (among them those belonging to Scheduled Tribes being a specific focus) at the upper primary level. Out of these, 77 KGBVs have been sanctioned in ST dominant blocks.

Village electrification in Assam

*387. SHRI DWIJENDRANATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any major initiatives for village electrification programme in the country particularly in Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. An unprecedented initiative, called the "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" (RGGVY) has been launched in April, 2005 with the aim of electrifying all villages and rural households in the entire country, including Assam, by 2009

The Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has sanctioned 3 projects with an outlay of Rs. 158.04 crores in Phase-I of the Programme in Assam. The 3 projects cover 903 un-electrified villages and 1,90,663 rural households including 1,48,971 BPL households. Funds to the tune of Rs. 39.22 crores have been released so far to Assam.

(b) Main features of RGGVY are as under:—

RGGVY envisages electrification of all villages and provision of access to electricity to all rural households through creation of—

- (i) Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with at least one 33/11 KV (or 66/11 KV) sub-station in each block.
- (ii) Village Electrification Infrastructure (VEI) with at least one distribution transformer in each village/habitation.
- (iii) Decentralised Distribution Generation (DDG) Systems where grid supply is not feasible or cost-effective.
- (iv) Free connections are provided to the BPL families.

90% capital subsidy is provided under RGGVY for creation of such infrastructure. To ensure revenue sustainability, deployment of franchisee is mandatory in the management of rural distribution.

Following steps have been taken to expedite the implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY):—

- Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has entered into Agreements with State Governments/State Power Utilities/ Discoms for implementation of the scheme.
- To augment the implementation capacities of the State Electricity Boards/Power Utilities, the services of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) which have demonstrated their capability in timely project execution with effective project management have been taken. Rural Electrification Corporation has entered into Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with CPSUs like National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC), POWERGRID, National Hydro Electric Power Corporation (NHPC) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC).
- For effective implementation of the project, REC has also developed the framework covering the guidelines for formulation of projects,

procurement of goods and services for projects to be executed on turn key basis including bidding procedure, franchisee implementation and technical specifications for equipment/material and construction standards for adoption in project implementation/execution.

- Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) are prepared district-wise for the purpose of cohesiveness and better implementation of projects.
- For speedier and effective implementation of the project, these are executed on turnkey basis.
- States have been advised to set-up district committees to monitor the progress of rural electrification works. All the States have already notified formation of district committees.
- The Government of India as also REC, the nodal agency for RGGVY, are conducting frequent review meetings with all the stakeholders e.g concerned State Governments, State power utilities and implementing agencies for expeditious implementation of the scheme as per agreed schedules.
- Government of India has set up an inter-Ministerial Monitoring Committee which periodically meets to sanction projects and review progress of implementation.

Anganwadis sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh

*388. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 8,000 Anganwadis have been sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh under ICDS;

(b) the number of Anganwadi Centres sanctioned and set up in Andhra Pradesh under ICDS, year-wise; and

(c) how Government are implementing the Supreme Court judgement that ICDS should be extended not only to BPL families but also to other eligible people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) By the end of Ninth Plan, the number of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs)